

Ronald J. Mjelde
Rialto Board Member
615 Kentucky Street
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

Appropriations Committee Chairman and Committee Members;

Thank you for allowing us to speak to you today. The Rialto Theater is the center of our community and we appreciate any funding you may provide.


After the fire, a town meeting was held and a decision to rebuild was made. Community citizens believe the theater is necessary to the town of Deer Lodge for films, theater productions, school functions, plays and also large gatherings. Many people from neighboring towns also visit our theater.

After the insurance company finished their fire investigation, Architect Jim McDonald and Engineer Tom Bodette of Missoula were hired. They estimated the cost to rebuild the theater to as close to the original stature as possible to be \$3.4 million.

After preparing the building for debris removal, Porter Construction of Deer Lodge installed a 14'x15' garage door on the south wall to allow easier removal of debris and delivery of construction materials. Gilman Construction of Butte removed the debris. We are now ready for actual re-construction to begin.

The next phase will begin in a few weeks. Sun-Up Ventures of Deer Lodge will install steel columns, glulam beams, a wood truss system. Blair Roofing of Deer Lodge will complete this roofing project. After this, the following will be done as monies become available. The floor in the auditorium, including heating tubes; interior walls in the auditorium and lobby; rebuilding the balcony; wiring, heating and plumbing; rebuilding the bathrooms and concession stand; repairs to the stage and ticket booth; insulation and drywall; interior decorating and design; painting; flooring; trim work and then completing the project with a new movie screen and seats.

The community of Deer Lodge and surrounding area will be extremely grateful for your help. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Mjelde